



The BARC Newsletter is published quarterly by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) to provide news and information on agricultural research and development to the NARS and other concerned organization in Bangladesh.

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# BARC *Newsletter*

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## World Food Day Observed

The World Food Day 2010 was observed in Bangladesh to recognize the efforts made in the fight against world hunger. The theme for World Food Day 2010 was United Against Hunger. The Ministry of Agriculture and BARC jointly organized a seminar on Unity Against Hunger and Food Insecurity: Why, by whom and how on 16 October 2010 at BARC. Mr. Quazi Akhter Hussain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was present as chief guest where Mr. Ad Spijkers, FAO Representative in Bangladesh was present as guest of honor. Mr. Anwar Faruque, Additional Secretary and Director General (Seed Wing) of MoA was also present on the occasion. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC, presided over the seminar, Dr. M. Assaduzzaman, Director (Research), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) presented the keynote paper on the theme of the day.

In the keynote paper Dr. Zaman highlighted the strategies and actions needed for ensuring food securities through united efforts. He also discussed the core issues like the availability of safe and nutritious food and people's access to food. Availability



Mr. Quazi Akhter Hussain, Additional Secretary, MoA addressing the world food day seminar, 2010 where Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman BARC, Mr. Ad Spijkers, FAO Representative, Mr. Anwar Faruque, Additional Secretary and Director General (Seed Wing) of MoA and Mr. Sayeed Ali, Director General of DAE were present

is based on domestic production and is also balanced through import-export. Domestic production itself is influenced by a host of other factors such as input and output price policies, technology system, marketing and extension system. He also mentioned women's employment and control of income is important as these influence the intra-household distribution of food more in favour of children and women themselves and the status of nutrition of children as well as women including pregnant and lactating women. As we all know that culture plays an important part in this regard, he said adding that some of these issues will be taken up further shortly.

Dr. M. A. Razzaque, Project Director, PCU-NATP and Professor Dr. Md. Shah-e-Alam, Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University were the discussants of the keynote paper. Mr. Anwar Faruque delivered the welcome address. The chief guest Quazi Akhter Hussain in his speech emphasized the domestic food production to ensure food security. He suggested switching to sustainable agriculture system from the rampant chemical dependent farming system through innovative alternatives. The FAO representative mentioned the need for more crop production through the united approach with a view to meeting the basic demands of the people. Dr. Wais Kabir, the chairperson of the program mentioned that more investment should be encouraged in the agriculture sector to employ more labourers, thereby ensuring more yields for the successful implementation of the mission-united against hunger.

## **Review of SPGR Sub-Projects under crops**

A day-long follow up workshop was held at BARC on 29 November 2010 to *Review the crop sector of SPGR Sub-Projects*. The objectives of the follow up workshop were to have further understanding on the current status of implementations, checking compliance to the suggestions/comments made in the previous SPGR review workshop and actions taken accordingly. As planned, these were done through

presentation by the Coordinators/ Principal Investigators of the sub-projects on the plan of work undertaken and the achievement so far made. Reporting/presentation covered all aspects of technical, procurement and financial matter. In total 80 participants comprising of the Coordinator, Principal Investigators, Co-Principal Investigators of the 20 crop sub-projects, representatives of PCU and senior scientists of BARC attended the workshop. The workshop began with an inaugural session and was followed by two technical and a concluding sessions.

Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman Akand Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops) presided over the inaugural session. At the outset, Dr. Md. Abul Kashem, Director, PIU-BARC, NATP delivered the welcome address and briefly explained the purpose of the workshop. Dr. Wais Kabir,



A view of the review workshop on SPGR Sub-Projects under crops

Executive Chairman, BARC who attended the program as chief guest in his speech appreciated the initiative of the Crops Division and PIU-BARC saying that the concerned divisions should take up the overall responsibility of research sub-project management. He urged upon the Coordinators, Principal Investigators and the Co-Principal Investigators to devote their intellect and efforts to implement the SPGR sub-projects properly and come up with the desired result for the benefit of the end users. He noted that both GoB and donor assistance in research in the coming days would greatly depend on the success

of these projects. Special guest Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member-Director (Planning & Evaluation) requested all to undertake all out efforts to complete the SPGR activities as planned and in doing so to expedite the expenditure of research activities and related procurements. Dr. Chowdhury, Chairperson of the workshop requested the participants to assist in the review process and asked upon the presenters to be specific to the workshop objectives, highlight the salient features of achievement, problems, if any and provide critical and constructive opinion/suggestions for the overall development of the SPGR activities.

The technical session was chaired by Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman Akand Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops). For each sub-project, 10 minutes were allocated for presentation using structured format distributed earlier, followed by discussion. Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder, CSO (P&E) and Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, PSO (P&E), BARC worked for the compilation of the rapporteur note on the workshop. Comments /suggestions made by the participants on different sub-projects and decisions have been incorporated in the report for further improvement of the sub-project implementation process.

## Discussion Meeting on Status of Bangladesh Biosafety Activities

A *Discussion Meeting on the status of the Bangladesh biosafety regulatory regime* was held at the Department of Environment (DoE), Agargaon, Dhaka on 4 October 2010. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director (Environmental Management), DoE. The meeting was attended among others by Mr. Mark Visocky, Deputy Office Director, USAID, Dhaka; Dr. Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan, Economic Growth Officer, USAID, Dhaka; Dr. Saharah Moon Chapotin, Biotechnology Adviser, USAID, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Andrew Roberts, Deputy Director, Center for Environmental Risk Assessment

(CERA), Washington, D.C.; and Dr. M. Khalequzzaman A. Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Chowdhury; Prof. Dr. Bahadur Miah; Representatives of Biosafety Core Committee (BCC) Prof. Dr. Zeba Islam Seraj; and Prof. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Country Coordinator, South Asian Biotechnology Program (SABP) were also present. Mr. Muhammad Solaiman Haider, Deputy Director, DoE and Member Secretary, National Committee on Biosafety (NCB) and BCC facilitated the discussion meeting.

Mr. Haider welcomed the participants and gave a brief account of the development of the biosafety regulatory regimes in Bangladesh. He reported that the Ministry of Environment and Forest has developed and gazetted the Biosafety Guidelines of Bangladesh, National Biosafety Framework (NBF) of Bangladesh. He said, with the assistance of SABP and BARC, DoE developed the confined field trial guidelines of Genetically Engineered Plants (GE plants), inspector manual for confined field trials of GE plants; crop-wise standard operating procedures (SOPs); data recording formats for confined field trial guidelines of GE plants; and biology documents for eggplant. The guidelines for the safety assessment of foods derived from GE plants have also been approved by the NCB. He also said the Biosafety Rules of Bangladesh have been drafted and approved through the inter-ministerial meeting and will now be sent to the Ministry of Law for vetting with the hope that they will be gazetted by the MoEF in the shortest possible time. Mr. Haider also briefly described the progress of the confined field trials of Bt eggplant and late blight resistant potato being conducted at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) under the ABSPII project.

Participants took part in a discussion after the introductory remarks of Mr. Haider. Mr. Visocky of the USAID mission said the present administration has given high priority to biotechnology research and development, adding that countries like Bangladesh should take advantage of the program. He hoped that

policymakers and researchers would fix reasonable Biosafety guidelines. Dr. Roberts gave a brief outline of the SABP programs to be carried out in Bangladesh under a new administrative set up with Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA) being responsible for SABP activities in Bangladesh. Dr. Chapotin expressed her satisfaction with the overall development of Biosafety related activities in Bangladesh. The majority Biosafety Core Committee members advocated holding awareness building workshops/training for policymakers, researchers and students on recent developments in agricultural biotechnology as well as on regulatory protocols during field trials and open release of GE plants and products. Dr. Chowdhury then mentioned that the product development and safety should go side by side. They also suggested involving civil society and other stakeholders during decisions on the commercial approval of GE plants and products and building capacities for regulators involved in the approval process. Mr. Shahjahan thanked the participants for giving suggestions on their activities.

## **Outreach and Information Dissemination Workshop**

Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) arranged a day-long regional workshop entitled *Outreach and Information Dissemination Workshop-2010 for Mymensingh Region* on 13 December 2010 in the Auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA). The workshop was planned and organized with the objectives to provide opportunities for the project implementing units, particularly the regional offices/actors to get together to review the project activities, assess the progress/outputs/outcomes, identify regional problems and find solution to them, identify transferable technology for the region, share experiences and discuss project implementation related other issues.

The target participants of the workshop were

mainly the upazila and district level officers of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE),



A view of Outreach and information review workshop in Mymensingh

Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and Department of Fisheries (DoF). Among others, the Project Director of PCU, Directors of PIUs, Experts/Consultants of PCU/ PIUs, researchers and representatives, local elite, print & electronic media representatives participated in the workshop. In total 105 participants attended the workshop.

The workshop had four sessions with five presentations from DAE, DLS, DoF, BINA and PCU. The workshop was held amidst the enthusiastic participation of all implementing units, decent power point presentations, lively discussions on the presentations as well as problems and prospects of NATP. Besides, the workshop helped orient the local participants about the concept, goals, activities and outputs/outcomes of NATP. The workshop ended with some suggestions and recommendations which may be the useful tools for the implementers, planners and policy makers for proper designing of the project activities in future. The major recommendations were:

1. Inter-departmental coordination at upazila and district level to be strengthened through frequent meeting and consultation among DAE, DLS and DoF, and also by holding of Upazila Extension Coordination Committee (UECC) and District Extension Coordination Committee (DECC) meeting regularly.
2. Timely planning and implementation of Common Interest Group (CIG) micro plans,

union extension micro plans and upazila extension plans, and regular field monitoring and reporting by the concerned authorities to be ensured and strengthened. Quick action on the findings of monitoring to be taken to improve the activities and accelerate the implementation process.

3. DAE, DLS and DoF should work jointly in a more coordinated way to support Farmers Information and Advice Center (FIAC) to be developed as an effective one stop service center for CIG members. All departments should provide sufficient extension materials and inputs to FIAC. DECC and UECC will make all sorts of arrangement when problem arises with Community Extension Agent for Livestock (CEAL) and Local Extension Agent for Fisheries (LEAF) in FIAC.
4. Researchable issues/problems to be identified from the field (in consultation with CIG) during project implementation and fed back to researchers. These identified problems should be given high priority in the research agenda. Climate resilience varieties and production technologies needs to be developed.
5. Outcomes/ impacts of the project activities, particularly the impacts of demonstrated technologies (i.e. adoption of improved technologies, increased productivity, higher farm incomes, farmer-market-linkages, institution building, etc.) should reach the neighboring farmers of CIGs. All these documents should be recorded upazila-wise.
6. Training Assessment needs to be done for making the trainings effective and fruitful. Timings of trainings should be planned covering the whole year to get maximum benefits from them instead of concentrating at the end of the year. Along with the departmental trainers, resource persons should be selected from research institutes too.
7. Supply Chain Development Component (SCDC) should address the issues like, quick marketing and proper preservation of perishable products; and improved packaging and safe transportation of agricultural/food commodity.
8. Good practices and success stories of CIGs/

farmers should be published in local media for technology diffusion among other farmers/stakeholders.

Participants opined that besides the progress review and program planning, the regional workshop also helped orient the local participants about the concept of NATP and its objectives, activities and outputs/outcomes. They, therefore, strongly suggested for organizing similar workshops in all other regions.

## Fortieth Founding Anniversary of BRRI celebrated

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) celebrated its 40th Founding Anniversary on 1 October 2010 in Gazipur. The programs included colourful rally, special seminar and discussion meeting. Mr. A F M Bahauddin Nasim, General Secretary of Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh was present as the chief guest in the seminar held at the BRRI auditorium. Presided over by Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan, Director General of BRRI the seminar was addressed among others by Md. Shajahan Kabir, General Secretary of the BRRI Scientists Association and Dr. Md. Saidul Islam, BRRI Coordinator for Advanced Studies and Research. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Jibon Krishna Biswas, Chief Scientific Officer and Head of the BRRI Plant Physiology Division. The Important facts and figures on achievements of BRRI over the last 40 years along with its mission-vision were discussed on the occasion. Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan, Director General of BRRI answered the questions raised by the audience.

Dr. Biswas in his keynote paper highlighted the outstanding contribution of BRRI to the national development through the release of high yielding varieties of rice and improved packages of production technologies since its establishment in 1970. He also mentioned that BRRI has developed 57 high yielding rice varieties including 4 hybrids having 2-3 times higher yield potential than traditional rice varieties. BRRI has developed more than 50 improved technologies on soil, water, fertilizer and cultural practices of

rice and developed 31 profitable rice-based cropping patterns for different AEZs and 22 agricultural machineries as well. The Institute has identified 31 rice diseases and 175 species of rice insect-pests and developed control measures for the major insects and diseases. BRRI has preserved more than 8,000 rice germplasm in the BRRI Gene Bank collected from home and abroad, he informed. BRRI has trained more than 50,000 officials, scientists, progressive farmers and extension personnels from GOs and NGOs. It has published 230 books, booklets, folders and extension materials for technology dissemination.

## BFRI Research Planning Workshop

A day-long workshop was organized by Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) on 12 October to *Review and formulate the research proposals of the institute for the year 2010-2011*. Mr. Md. Abdul Latif Biswas MP, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries & Livestock, Govt. of Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. Principal Motiur Rahman, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mymensingh-4 and Member, Board of Governors, BFRI graced the occasion as special guest. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Mohammed Shamsul Kibria, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock. The session was also addressed by Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Director General, Department of Fisheries as Guest of Honour. Different stakeholders related to fisheries education, research, extension, culture, trading and farming community participated in the workshop. BFRI scientists from its different regional stations and sub-stations, officers of Department of Fisheries, teachers from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University (JU), Haji Danesh Science & Technology University (HDSTU), representatives from different Government. and non-government organizations, hatchery owners and entrepreneurs also participated in the workshop.

Dr. M. Ghulam Hussain, Director General, BFRI in his welcome address highlighted the research

achievements of the institute and the objectives of the workshop. He also highlighted the impact and contribution of research on fisheries development of Bangladesh. Dr. S.U. Ahmed, Director (Research & Planning), BFRI presented an overview on BFRI research progress of 2009-10 and areas of research for 2010-11. Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman Khan, DG, DoF in his speech requested BFRI researchers for undertaking research on development of high yielding fish varieties, management of floodplain fisheries, sources of harmful chemicals and their impact on aquaculture, assessment and management of marine resources etc. Mr. Rahman MP said BFRI has made significant achievements in fisheries research through development of a number of viable technologies and management aspects.

Hon'ble chief guest in his inaugural speech emphasized more coordination between the researchers and extension workers for successful dissemination of fisheries technologies. He urged researchers to work hard for achieving self sufficiency in food in line with the vision of present government. The Hon'ble Minister underlined the need for the government's initiatives to develop and strengthen fisheries research by undertaking new development projects, establishing new research stations and recruiting adequate manpower. Mr. Kibria, Joint Secretary, MoFL in his address remarked that the ministry is very much cooperative with the development of fisheries research in the country. He called upon the scientists to come forward for wider cooperation in the greater interest of the country.



A view of the BFRI Annual Research Planning Workshop where Mr. Md. Abdul Latif Biswas MP, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries & Livestock was present as chief guest

The inaugural session was followed by four technical sessions namely freshwater aquaculture, brackishwater aquaculture, openwater fisheries and marine fisheries. The scientists and university teachers presented the research proposals of 2010-11 as part of their respective institutions. An open and general discussion took place on each presentation and the recommendations were placed in the concluding session.

### Training on Food based Nutritionat Small Entrepreneur Level

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Bangladesh Applied Nutrition and Human Resource Development Board (BAN-HRDB) jointly organized a 5-day *Training Program on food based nutrition in the light of processing and preservation at small entrepreneur level* during 26 -30 December 2010 in the conference Room of BAN-HRDB, Dhaka. A total of 30 small entrepreneurs, NGO representatives participated in the program. The course was organized with a view to improving their skill and knowledge in food processing and preservation of perishable vegetables and fruits. The courses were emphasized on multidisciplinary sectors in the following subjects viz., agriculture products, fishery, processing and preservation techniques of fruits and vegetables, quality maintain, improvement of nutrition level, use of different toxic chemicals in food, arsenic problems etc.

The training program was inaugurated by Dr. Md. Moslem Uddin Mia, Director (Nutrition), BARC as the chief guest. The inaugural session was presided over the Dr. A. F. M. Saiful Islam (Executive), BAN-HRDB. Dr. Md. Monirul Islam, PSO (Nutrition), BARC delivered the welcome address. Dr. Mia in his inaugural speech explained in brief the importance of training and the role of small entrepreneurs and hoped that through this training the participants would contribute to build up awareness of community

people in healthy food and their nutrition requirements. He also mentioned the criteria of safe foods and how they could improve their livelihood by processing and preservation of agro-products.



A view of the Inaugural Training program on food based nutrition in the light of processing and preservation at small entrepreneur level

Dr. Mia also attended the certificate giving ceremony and distributed the certificates among the participants. In his concluding remarks, he hoped that participants would utilize the opportunity to bring about innovative processing and preservation techniques of fruits and vegetables for production of quality food items.

### SAARC Charter Day Celebrated

In observance of the SAARC Charter Day, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) organized a seminar on *Food Security in SAARC Countries through Regional Cooperation* on 8 December 2010 at BARC. Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture was present as chief guest. Mr. C.Q.K. Mustaq Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture presided over the seminar where Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as special guest. Dr. M. Zainul Abedin, IRRI Representative in Bangladesh presented the keynote paper on *Food Security in SAARC Countries through Regional Cooperation*. Dr.

Abedin in his speech highlighted the food situation in the SAARC Region and the steps needed for ensuring food security. Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, former Executive Chairman, BARC & Project Director, PCU-NATP and Md. Sufiur Rahman, Director General (SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs were the discussants of the keynote paper.

## International Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Conference

The *6th International Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Conference* was held during 3-5 December 2010 at the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference was organized by the Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology (BAPTC&B) in collaboration with the Dhaka University, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology and National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB). Many national and international organizations acted as sponsors and co-sponsors as well. Participants included 35 foreign and more than 200 local biotechnologists from universities, national agricultural research institutes, private and NGO sector biotech laboratories as well as policy makers. With a theme of the *Role of Biotechnology in Food Security and Climate Change* the conference included paper presentations, scientific sessions and a poster session covering various aspects of plant biotechnology, biosafety, food security and climate change. The scientific session *Biosafety and Public Acceptance of Genetically Modified Plants* was sponsored by South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP).

In the inaugural ceremony Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'able Minister for Agriculture made remarks indicating the government's support to introduction of safe biotechnology programs in agriculture. Prof. Dr. ASM Arifin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka and Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council

spoke on the occasion. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Swapan Datta, Deputy Director General of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research focusing on the need to increase production of food while protecting the environment and dealing with the challenges of climate change and increasing population.

There were nine scientific sessions covering the topics like large scale production of different economically important crops through in vitro techniques, conservation of biodiversity through biotechnology, biosafety, public acceptance of genetically modified crops, use of molecular markers in crop improvement and development of plant resistance to biotic stress functional genomics and proteomics biotechnology in waste management and plant genetic transformation and progress and prospect of commercialization of in-vitro derived plants and value-added products.

## Progress Review Workshop on Agricultural Technology Transfer Project

A 2-day long workshop on *Progress Review of Agricultural Technology Transfer (ATT) Project* was organized during 20-21 December 2010 at Training Centre of BARC to review the implementation progress of the technology transfer sub-projects so far made, by the partner NGOs. About 100 personnel from NGOs, relevant agencies and BARC participated in the workshop. Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, MD (P&E), BARC chaired the inaugural session and Dr. M. Moslem Uddin Mia, Director (Nutrition) and PD (ATTP), BARC welcomed the participants. Dr. Moslem in his welcome address highlighted the salient features of the technology transfer sub-projects and their implementation status. Dr. M. Sahadad Hussain, Team Leader, ATT project briefly summarized the project activities including implementation status of demonstration, field days, BDS training, capacity building (local and foreign training/visit), mid-term evaluation, field monitoring, success stories, baseline survey etc. The participatory approach, sharing resources is one of the new ideas of technology transfer (75%

project cost, 11% NGO and 13% farmers) was found to be satisfactory. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman described GO-NGOs-Farmers' participation in the project as a unique event. He also mentioned that some success stories could be utilized as a guide for similar type of project formulation. Constraints, suggestions/recommendations from each component should elaborately be pointed out. Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain said technology demonstrations should be continued in more areas for several years to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved through the projects.

Sixteen sub-projects on crops and 11 on forestry were presented in the first and second technical sessions, respectively. While the sub-projects on livestock and fisheries were presented in the 3rd and 4th technical sessions, respectively. Dr. Z. Karim, Crop specialist of the project and former Secretary and Dr. M. Nurul Alam, Executive Director, KGF and former Executive Chairman of BARC, Dr. A. A. Hassan, Member Director (NRM) were present on the occasion and Dr. S. G. Hussain, MD (P&E), BARC, presided over all the sessions.

### **Comments/suggestions made by the participants**

#### **A. Crops and Forestry Sub-sector**

##### **A. Crops and Forestry Sub-sector:**

1. Area of demonstration, yield and profit should be done as per guideline.
2. Cost benefit analysis should be uniform.
3. Technical report should be prepared according to supplied format.
4. Start of the experiment, planting date and harvesting date should be mentioned.
5. Year round vegetable data should be presented season wise (yield, profit, consumption pattern, etc.)
6. Quality seed productions of BRRI dhan 44, 46, 47 should follow the recommended quality seed production practices.

7. Salinity tolerance test should be included and discuss the extent of field level salinity.
8. Cropping pattern demos. result should discuss yield, cost and benefit on the basis of total pattern's cost and return, not on the basis of individual crop at different seasons.
9. Aroid production in char area of Bhuapur was not satisfactory, as stated by the NGO, due to water logging. The participants observed that site selection by the NGO was not appropriate for aroid production.
10. Coconut based BARI Halud-3 technology was not feasible because of non-availability of coconut garden at Cox's Bazar.
11. Turmeric variety (BARI Halud-3) would be a viable technology in Jackfruit garden as intercrop. Farmers faced the problem of low market price due to lack of natural turmeric-yellow color in BARI Halud-3.

#### **B. Livestock Sub-sector**

1. In livestock, all the NGOs pointed out that close relationship developed with DLS through this project.
2. Initial and final weight of livestock should be recorded.
3. Initial cost was high in this sector because housing facilities were needed to create for all stakeholders.
4. Bengal goat production technology might be undertaken in Comilla region.
5. Semi intensive Bengal Sheep production might not be feasible. Rather than Bengal goat production technology should be given more priority. BLRI might take up programme for development of sheep production technology. Appropriate breed of sheep needs to be developed.
6. Duck production technology would be viable only where water bodies exist. Proper vaccination programme must be ensured. Sylhet and Kishorgonj haor area might be suitable areas for this technology.
7. Cost benefit analysis of all livestock technology should be done.

### C. Fisheries Sub-sector

1. Local hatchery (especially for Shing culture) is urgently needed for the Narsingdi project area.
2. Farmers of the Narsingdi project area should collect fingerlings/PL for shing culture from Mymensingh (Muktagacha) area where farm level small scale hatcheries are already in operation.
3. Scarcity of water, water quality, pH and acidity should be assessed before setting demos in Golda and Carps mixed culture technology.
4. Women participation and practical training at the project site should be ensured.
5. Popularize fish culture in seasonal pond for human nutrition.
6. Ensure feeding to fish by women beneficiaries.

### Concluding Session

1. Crop cut experiment from the neighboring farmers fields is needed where applicable to compare the results with the improved technology.
2. Submit draft completion report by 27 December, 2010, positively.
3. Measure size/area of the water bodies accurately. Only the water areas, not the bank area, should be measured.
4. Fund was very limited for implementation of technology based sub-projects. More fund allocation was recommended.
5. Success stories/video/poster presentation should be made in final workshop if the project is extended upto June, 2011.
6. Yield gaps should be minimized by using appropriate variety & improved management practices.
7. Extension-Research-NGOs-Farmers collaboration was unique and viable in this project.
8. Create more awareness among demonstration farmers about the

technologies which were found commercially and economically profitable.

9. The project is needed to be extended up to June, 2011, to complete all technology activities and enable submission of final completion report to BARC.

### Governing Body Meeting

The 37th Council Governing Body meeting was held at BARC Conference room on December 29, 2010. Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Chairperson of the Governing Body presided over the meeting. The meeting reviewed implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 36th Governing Body meeting. A final draft on research priority for the period 2030 and beyond was placed in the meeting for approval. The distinguished members held a threadbare discussion on the future researchable issues and the meeting concluded amidst the call for another meeting for further discussing the issues of research priority and for their approval as well.



Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture was Addressing the Governing Body meeting.

### Executive Council Meeting

The 85th and 86th Executive Council meetings were held at BARC Conference Room on 27 October 2010 and 12 December 2010 respectively. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC and Chairman of the

Executive Council presided over both the meetings. The 85<sup>th</sup> meeting reviewed implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 84<sup>th</sup> meeting. The meeting discussed and reviewed the research proposals and budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011 placed by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI) and approved them. The meeting also approved three NARS Monitoring Formats which will be mandatorily used in monitoring of all research programs/projects of NARS from now onward. The meeting also decided that all the NARS institutes would take effective measures to institutionalize the Monitoring and Evaluation system.



Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC Addressing the EC Meeting.

The 86th meeting reviewed implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 85 th meeting. The meeting reviewed the research proposals and budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011 placed by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) and approved them.

## Distinguished Visitors

1. Dr. David Catling, Consultant in Agriculture and Development, Cape Town, South Africa met the Executive Chairman of BARC on 1 December 2010. The objective of the visit was to look at possible activities for

USAID's new Feed the Future Strategy aimed at helping the Bangladesh Country Investment Plan (CIP) for Food Security.

2. A two member USAID team headed by Mr. Arvin Bunker, Vice President of Weidemann and Senior Agronomist Dr. John DeBoer met the Executive Chairman of BARC on 13 December 2010. The objective of the visit was to be acquainted with the agricultural research system in Bangladesh and strengthen the partnership in research.



USAID team headed by Mr. Arvin Bunker, Vice President of Weidemann and Senior Agronomist Dr. John DeBoer exchange their views with the Executive Chairman of BARC.

3. A seven member Chinese delegation comprising of Mr. Xia Chaojia, Chairman of Hejia Group, Chaina, Mr. Manas Chiaravanond, President of Chia-Thai Co. Ltd, Thailand and Ms. Zhang Qin, Chairperson of Winall High-tech Seed Co. Ltd, China, Director Generals of BRRI, BARI and senior officers of Lal Teer met the Executive Chairman of BARC on 21 December 2010. During the meeting the delegation exchanged views on the status of agriculture sector and expressed their willingness to work close with Bangladesh especially for further development of the seed sector.



Executive Chairman of BARC handing over a crest to Ms. Zhaq Qin, Chairperson of Winall High-tech Seed Co. Ltd. Chaina.

## Visit Abroad

- Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC, visited China as a team member during 14-20, October 2010 to attend the Second Session of the Joint Agricultural Committee between Bangladesh and China. A 5-member Bangladeshi team headed by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury attended the meeting. Other team members were: Mr. AZM Shafiqul Alam, Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Sayeed Ali, Director General of DAE and Mr. Md. Abul Bashar, PS to the Hon'ble Minister.
- Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC attended the Second Session of the Joint Agricultural Committees between Bangladesh and China during October 17-20, 2010 in Beijing, China for NATP- DAE Component. He

also visited Hanoi, Vietnam during 8-12 November 2010 to attend the 3rd International Rice Congress (IRC, 2010).

- Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director (P&E), BARC attended the Kick off Workshop on Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Model (AgMIP) on 28-30 October 2010 in USA at University of Colombia
- Dr. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Chief Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC and Director (SAC) attended the Symposium and General Assembly of Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) during 12-15 October 2010 in Republic of Korea .
- Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director (P&E), BARC and Dr. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Chief Scientific Office (Crops), BARC and Director, SAC participated the Final Workshop of the SAARC Institutes on Regional Food Security during 14-15 November 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Dr. M. Khalequzzaman A. Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC participated 3rd BIMSTEC Export Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation during 22-23 November 2010 in Kandy, Sri-Lanka.

## Retirement

Mr. Md. Mostaque Ahmed, Director (Support Service), BARC has gone to PRL on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

## Readers and Contributors

The scientists, technologists and concerned officials involved in NARS institutes are requested to send articles, success stories, research highlights and reports on improtant events with quality photographs for BARC Newsletter. Cooperation in this regard as well as your valuable comments and suggestions for our future endeavour would be highly appreciated.

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